

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Accompanying this Amendment are two replacement drawing sheets containing Figs. 12 and 15-16, respectively. In Fig. 12 the reference number "40g" has been replaced with --40b--, while in Fig. 16, the reference number "30" has been changed to --31--.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the Final Office Action of October 24, 2007 is respectfully requested. Accompanying this Amendment is a two-month petition for extension of time together with the requisite small entity fee.

Also accompanying this Amendment is an Information Disclosure Statement together with a fee of \$180.00 for submission after the first Office Action. Applicants note that the first cited reference JP2003-236415 (designated in the International Search Report under categories X, P and A relative to certain claims) lists the Applicant as the same as the Assignee of the present case and that the first (of two) priority applications for the present case predates the publication date of the JP2003-236415 reference. That is, the first priority case JP '882 was filed March 27, 2003 (prior to the August 26, 2003 publication date of JP2003-236415) while the second priority application '464 was filed on November 28, 2003. Further, please find enclosed a verified translation of the priority JP '415 application which shows the level of support relative to the presently claimed invention.

The specification has been amended to remove some typographical errors noted and also to have the summary of the invention more closely conform to the elected claim subject matter.

In the claim Amendments, claims 1 and 2 have been canceled and claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 have been amended while new claims 10-24 have been added and the requisite fee associated with excess total claims is provided herewith.

Also, while claim 5 was previously withdrawn, claim 5 has been amended and in its current state it (together with its dependents) is respectfully submitted to be either generic or directed at the elected subject matter. Accordingly, rejoinder is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 for certain phrases that started with "the" instead of "a" and thus did not have specific antecedent basis. While this type of "lacking" antecedent basis is submitted to fall within an objectionable classification and not a rejectable, 35 U.S.C. §112, classification, the claim changes made and discussed below are respectfully submitted to render the rejection moot in any event.

In the Office Action, claims 3, 4, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on Sickles '482 in view of Binoch.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Hwu for the courtesies extended Applicants' representative, Dennis C. Rodgers, during the interview of February 21, 2008. As noted in the Interview Summary there was a discussion as to how each of the two relied upon prior art references of Sickles and Binoch featured highly exposed electrode areas unlike the currently claimed invention. (e.g., the amended, independent claims 3 and 5). As further noted from a comparison of the field development between Sickles (e.g., Figure 23) and a preferred embodiment (e.g., Figure 14) of the present invention, there is also a large difference in patterns generated by the respective electrode arrangements.

As also set forth in the Interview Summary Record:

"It was agreed that the feature of accommodating an insulatively shielded electrode in the projection is not shown in either Sickles and Binoche."

As this feature, which is recognized as lacking in the applied prior art, is contained in the currently presented independent claims 3 and 5, it is respectfully submitted that all claims stand in condition for allowance (the withdrawn claims 1 and 2 having been canceled in this amendment based on the restriction imposition).

Applicants respectfully submit that the application as a whole stands in condition for allowance.

Also, if any fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to Deposit Account 02-4300; Order No. 034206R002.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 24, 2008